



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JANUARY 18, 2026

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.
It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to
Pastor Phil this morning and let us know if there is any way
we might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "It is only because he became like us that we can become like him." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the bleak midwinter, we wait:

ALL: for the One who warms us with stories of love and hope.

ONE: In the stillness of a snowfall, we wait:

ALL: for the One who clears a path so we may follow in faith.

ONE: In the shadows of life, we wait:

ALL: for the One who lights the way through the world.

* HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

You shaped us to be servants, Faithful God, but we spend so much time focused on ourselves. Called to be saints, we deeply despise those with whom we disagree. Challenged to testify about the good news, we keep silent, hoarding stories of joy and hope for ourselves. Forgive us, Merciful Lamb. Give us open ears, that we might hear your words of pardon. Give us open eyes, that we might see those you would have us serve. Give us open hearts, that we might welcome the One who takes away our sins. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

734

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US *(Skip if no children are in attendance)*

Prayer for the children *(unison)*:

We send blessings upon our children for all God's love,
all Christ's friendship and all the caring of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song Response

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power,
send us grace.*

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

HYMN

Lamb of God

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SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED – Insert

HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

GIVE THANKS:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

God of the saints in every age and time, we are grateful for the privilege of being numbered among them as we invest our gifts from you. Because of your generosity, we have not lacked for anything we really need. Grant now that our words and deeds may follow our offering into loving service in your realm. Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD’S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Make Me a Servant

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*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.*

* HYMN

The Summons

350

Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1987, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: John L. Bell

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, JANUARY 11, 2026

St. John's – 10 St. Jacob – 30

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary's office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 618-644-2142 / St. Jacob E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Website: stjacobucc.org

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: pastor@hometel.com

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Patti Woods

Liturgist

George Anderson

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, and Sean and Dustin,
sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Rich Erwin, Lori Foley, Melody Hollis,
Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer,
Taylor Ostrander, Kathy Ritter, David Schmidt and Olin Zweck

IL South Conference: Each week the churches of the Illinois South Conference are asked to pray for congregations and their pastors and other ministries of the UCC. This week we are asked to pray for:

Church & Pastors

- **Friedens UCC, Marissa** - Rev. Brett (Carolyn) Palmer

- **Zion UCC, Marion** - Rev. John (Sara) Holst

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Chris (Cathy) Hill

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Isaac Imming, Jan. 20
Heather & Justin Weycker, 21 years, Jan. 20
Kay Guse, Jan. 21
Lisa Kelley, Jan. 21

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: St. John's annual meeting, noon, lunch following

TUESDAY: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

JANUARY 25: Strawberry Festival planning meeting, following worship

FEBRUARY 1: St. Jacob annual meeting, following worship, lunch following

ST. JACOB 2025 GIVING STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

St. Jacob 2025 Giving Statements are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

ST. JACOB 2026 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

There are still a few St. Jacob 2026 envelope booklets available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, Feb. 25 – March 25 at 7 p.m., meeting in Heritage Hall.

SNOW SHOVELING

We still need volunteers at St. Jacob UCC to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

In case of inclement weather, we have implemented the following procedure: No later than 8 a.m., Sunday morning there will be a message on the church answering machine (618-644-2142) stating whether church will be cancelled. Also, the cancellation of service will be posted on our Facebook page and Channel 5.

ST. JACOB UCC WORSHIP VIDEO STREAMING ISSUE

Due to video streaming issues, St. Jacob UCC worship service is temporarily unavailable to view on-line.

WALK WITH GOD

Come join our St. Jacob UCC walking group, called “Walk with God.” Anyone who likes to take walks, be in nature and share in unity is encouraged to join us. We hope to get members of the church together a couple times a week to walk and be visible in the community. We will meet at the church and decide from there where we would like to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you’re interested in participating or for more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (January-February) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

With the inflation these past few months, use of local food pantries has been high, and donations have been low. To help our communities we have a donation tub/box for food pantry donations in the sanctuary at St. John’s and St. Jacob.

Items for St. John's (For Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries):

January Shopping list: Vinegar, oil, flour, sugar, fruit juice, ground coffee, Hamburger/Tuna/Cheesy Helper, Crisco, paper towels, & kitchen trash bags

February Shopping list: Canned stew, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, corn beef hash, canned soup, evaporated milk, Ramen noodles, powdered sugar, household cleaner, & body lotion

Items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Pop-tarts, oatmeal, cheese cracker sandwiches, beef jerky, fruit cups, Vienna sausages, ketchup, mustard, broth, cooked ham, pasta sauce, jelly, pancake mix, & syrup

BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The “Blessing Box” (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. Anyone can donate -- items are anonymously given and received. Please consider blessing our neighbors in need, and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, coastlands; pay attention, peoples far away. The Lord called me before my birth, called my name when I was in my mother's womb. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of God's own hand. He made me a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God's quiver, saying to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I show my glory." But I said, "I have wearied myself in vain. I have used up my strength for nothing." Nevertheless, the Lord will grant me justice; my reward is with my God. And now the Lord has decided – the one who formed me from the womb as his servant – to restore Jacob to God, so that Israel might return to him. Moreover, I'm honored in the Lord's eyes; my God has become my strength. He said: It is not enough, since you are my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the survivors of Israel. Hence, I will also appoint you as light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

The Lord, redeemer of Israel and its holy one, says to one despised, rejected by nations, to the slave of rulers: Kings will see and stand up; commanders will bow down on account of the Lord, who is faithful, the holy one of Israel, who has chosen you.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

From Paul, called by God's will to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and from Sosthenes our brother.

To God's church that is in Corinth:

To those who have been made holy to God in Christ Jesus, who are called to be God's people. Together with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place – he's their Lord and ours! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel." John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated Teacher), where are you staying?"

He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ). He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).